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PROJECT NAME: Clark County Park and Recreation Plan Update

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SUBJECT: Sports Field and Other Recreation Facilities Assessment

PURPOSE

To determine the current inventory, use and demand for the County's urban and regional park system for the provision of sports fields and other specialized recreational facilities to project potential needs for future acquisition and development for six- and 20-year capital facility planning.

BACKGROUND

The County provides regional parks, special facilities, regional trails, greenways and natural areas throughout the Clark County and neighborhood and community parks and sports fields in or proximate to the urban unincorporated area (Vancouver growth area). Vancouver and the other cities within the county are responsible for provision of parks and recreation facilities within their boundaries. Previous park comprehensive plans have reflected the combined inventory of the county and the city of Vancouver. This update reflects only county-owned sports fields and partnerships with private or school district partnerships for providing sports fields and other public-use recreational facilities.

In 2004, E.D. Hovee & Company conducted a game field needs analysis for youth sports fields (little league and soccer) in the area within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area (including Vancouver). The study did not include other cities or the rural unincorporated areas of Clark County. The Hovee study identified current and projected build-out population by league and sport; calculated long-term youth sports participation by league and sport; projected future participation by league and sport; and summarized their results.

At that time, there were sufficient youth soccer fields in the urban area to meet that specific recreational need. Long term, however, the seven identified youth soccer leagues require 21 more fields to support anticipated residential growth. Since the Hovee study, the Greater Clark Parks District development program added nine (9) additional soccer fields to the county-related infrastructure of recreational fields. Among the eight (8) little league associations that were operating within the Vancouver UGA, the study projected a future need for 23 more fields to support the anticipated long-term residential growth. During the GCPD program (from 2006-2011) seven more ball fields were added to the inventory at Luke Jensen Sports Complex and Hockinson Meadows Park.

In the 2007 VCPRD comprehensive park recreation and open space plan, the inventory of sports fields was counted across all providers. Those recreation providers including the city of Vancouver, school districts, and private entities supplied a total of 106 baseball and softball fields for dedicated league use within the urban areas of Vancouver. The City of Vancouver and school districts owned and operated the greatest portion of

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these fields, with private providers supplying the majority of the remaining fields in the inventory. In the more rural areas of Clark County, a number of providers supply baseball, softball, and soccer fields for league use. These providers include Clark County Parks, local school districts, private agencies, and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, Yacolt, and Woodland. The tally in 2007 indicated that these agencies supplied a total of 59 baseball and softball fields for league use in the areas of Clark County outside the UGA. These facilities are generally available to residents of Vancouver and Clark County. See Table 1. (below)

Table 1. Existing Recreation Facilities: Sports Fields
(from 2007 VCPRD Park Plan)

Facility	VCPRD	Other Agencies*	Total
Baseball / Softball Fields	36	129	165
Urban (inside Vancouver UGA)	35	71	106
Rural (unincorporated county)	1	58	59
Soccer Fields	17	211	228
Urban (inside Vancouver UGA)	17	122	139
Rural (unincorporated county)	0	89	89

**includes local school districts, private providers, and other municipalities in Clark County.*

In 2007, recreation providers including the City of Vancouver, local school districts, and private agencies supplied a total of 139 soccer fields for dedicated league use within the Vancouver urban area. The majority of these fields are the property of local schools. Private providers and the city supply a modest number of additional fields. Various agencies, including school districts and other cities, also provided soccer fields for league use in the rural areas of Clark County. These agencies supplied a combined 89 soccer fields for league use in the areas of Clark County outside the UGA.

Since that previous 2007 comprehensive parks plan, the urban unincorporated area has experienced significant recreation facility development. The establishment of the Greater Clark Parks District (GCPD) with its property tax levy that provides operation and maintenance funding has supported the development of numerous sports fields, including the Luke Jensen Sports Complex, sports fields at Hockinson Meadows Park and Alki Middle School, mini-soccer fields at All Saints Episcopal Church and sports field(s) at Amboy Baptist Church. Three off-leash dog parks located at Pacific Park, Brush Prairie Park and Hockinson Meadows Park have also been added to the county system of recreational facilities. One skate park at Pacific Park and several smaller skate “spots” at new neighborhood parks have been added to the urban unincorporated area through the GCPD program.

INVENTORY

The current inventory of county owned, managed or operated sports field facilities is listed in Table 2. The county provides 44 fields through its parkland inventory with supporting infrastructure to accommodate practice, games and related activities to ensure safe and enjoyable youth and adult team sports. Programming for teams and league play is managed by different associations or leagues each with their own boundary and

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operations. The county typically provides the infrastructure and varying levels of maintenance depending on the facility and the terms of league use agreements.

Table 2. County-Owned Sports Fields

<i>Clark County-Owned Sites</i>										
Field Location	Ownership	Turf Type	Field Type							
			Adult Baseball	Youth Baseball	Adult Softball	Youth Softball	Adult Soccer	Youth Soccer	Football	Multi-Use
Felida Park North	Clark	Grass						x		
Felida Park West	Clark	Grass						x		
Felida Park U10	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #1	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #2	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #3	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #4	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #5	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #6	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #7	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #8	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #9	Clark	Grass						x		
Harmony Sports Complex #CL1	Clark	Grass	x							
Harmony Sports Complex #CL2	Clark	Grass		x						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL3	Clark	Grass		x						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL4	Clark	Grass				x				
Harmony Sports Complex #CL5	Clark	Grass				x				
Harmony Sports Complex #CL6	Clark	Grass		x						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL7	Clark	Grass		x						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL8	Clark	Grass		x						
Harmony Sports Complex #CL9	Clark	Grass				x				
Hockinson Community Park #1	Clark	Grass	x							
Hockinson Community Park #2	Clark	Grass		x						
Hockinson Community Park #3	Clark	Grass				x				
Hockinson Community Park #4	Clark	Grass				x				
Hockinson Community Park #5	Clark	Grass		x						
Hockinson Community Park #6	Clark	Grass		x						
Hockinson Community Park #7	Clark	Grass						x		
Hockinson Community Park #8	Clark	Grass						x		
Hockinson Community Park #9	Clark	Grass						x		
Hockinson Community Park #10	Clark	Grass						x		
Lewisville Park #1	Clark	Grass	x							
Luke Jensen Sports Park #1	Clark	Artificial								x
Luke Jensen Sports Park #2	Clark	Grass		x						
Luke Jensen Sports Park #3	Clark	Grass		x						
Luke Jensen Sports Park #4	Clark	Artificial								x
Luke Jensen Sports Park #5	Clark	Artificial								x
Pacific Community Park	Clark	Grass								x
Salmon Creek Park #1	Clark	Grass				x				
Salmon Creek Park #2	Clark	Grass				x				
Salmon Creek Park #3	Clark	Grass				x				
Salmon Creek Park #4	Clark	Grass				x				
Salmon Creek Park #5	Clark	Grass				x				
Salmon Creek Park #6	Clark	Grass				x				
TOTAL COUNTY	44		3	10	0	11	0	16	0	4

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Table 3 lists those privately owned facilities that have been partially or fully funded by Clark County. These eleven (11) additional sports fields are primarily dedicated to youth leagues for playing baseball, softball and soccer. Three (3) of these fields (one baseball and two softball) provide for adult games as well.

Table 3. Other Sports Fields

Privately Owned but partially or fully funded and/ or maintained by Clark County

Field Location	Ownership	General Field Type	Field Type							
			Adult Baseball	Youth Baseball	Adult Softball	Youth Softball	Adult Soccer	Youth Soccer	Football	Multi-Use
Amboy Baptist Church	A.B.C.	Grass		x				x		
All Saints Episcopal Church Field	A.S.E.C	Grass								
HB Fuller Park #1	Private	Grass	x							
HB Fuller Park #2	Private	Grass		x						
HB Fuller Park #3	Private	Grass		x						
HB Fuller Park #4	Private	Grass			x					
HB Fuller Park #5	Private	Grass			x					
HB Fuller Park #6	Private	Grass						x		
HB Fuller Park #7	Private	Grass						x		
HB Fuller Park #8	Private	Grass						x		
HB Fuller Park #9	Private	Grass						x		
TOTAL PARTNERS'	11		1	3	2	0	0	5	0	0

Additional facilities are provided by the cities, school districts and private groups within Clark County. A comprehensive inventory of all sports fields supplied by all providers in the county has not been actively updated as part of this assessment.

RECREATION FACILITY NEED

Sports Fields

Community demand guides the establishment of need for future recreational amenities within the Clark County parks system. Sports participation numbers and the rate of field use have more direct influence in determining the need for additional facilities and facility improvements. The county does not have an adopted standard for the provision of sports fields and other recreational facilities in its system. As a comparison, the historic National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recreation facility standards can be used as a benchmark for communities for planning facility needs based on local populations and projected population growth. These NRPA guidelines are outlined in the Table 4 below.

Table 4: Historic NRPA Field Guidelines (1997)

Activity	Standard (population)
Baseball (youth)*	1 field/6,000
Softball (youth)	1 field/5,000
Soccer	1 field/4,000
Basketball (outdoor)	1 court/2,000
Tennis court	1 court/2,000
Other (football, etc.)	1 field/10,000

Using the 2014 population of the Vancouver growth area (unincorporated urban area) of 143,254 residents, the need for the number of sports fields based on the historic NRPA guidelines are outlined in the Table 5. The table also depicts the county-provided or assisted fields and how much those fields contribute to the overall need for sports fields if the NRPA standard is used as a guideline. School districts and private facilities also provide substantial fields for team sports use. This assessment focuses solely on the county-provided infrastructure for recreation facilities. Although the historic NRPA standard is no longer actively used by park agencies, it serves as a benchmark for comparison and allows an assessment of the portion of fields being provided by the county to contribute to the overall demand and need for recreational sports field programming. Within the urban unincorporated area encompassing the six park impact fee district and the Greater Clark Park District, county parks contributes a significant percentage of needed fields for youth sports. More than half of the fields needed to support youth soccer (59% of 36 fields) and youth baseball (54% of 24 fields) are within county-owned or county-supported parks and special facilities.

Table 5. County – Provided Fields: Contribution to NRPA Standard

	Youth soccer	Adult baseball	youth baseball	youth softball	adult softball	multi- use
NRPA standard	1/4,000	n/a	1/6,000	1/5,000	n/a	1/10,000
CC Fields	16	3	10	11	0	4
CC-assisted fields	5	1	3	0	2	0
Total CC inventory	21	4	13	11	2	4
Need for fields	36	n/a	24	29	n/a	14
LOS performance	59%	n/a	54%	38%	n/a	28%

Plans for two new sports fields at Pacific Community Park are underway for construction proposed in 2016, through private partnerships with Miracle League for an inclusive ball field and with a regional senior softball league. Harmony Sports Complex is upgraded two turf soccer fields to all-weather play surfaces with completion planned for end of summer, 2015.

OTHER SPECIALIZED RECREATION FACILITIES

Skate Parks

Skate parks have experienced a growing population of users since the 2007 parks plan. The city of Vancouver provides the Waterworks skate park, an older skate park that may be decommissioned with the future expansion of the water utility facility on the same property. Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Woodland and Yacolt have added skate parks to their recreation inventory. As part of the GCPD program, the county added a skate park at Pacific Park and numerous skate spots distributed among the newer neighborhood parks in the urban unincorporated area. A second phase of skate park amenities is proposed in the adopted master plan for Pacific Park and would provide a wider range of skate/bike experiences. There is no adopted standard for

provision of skate park facilities but observed use indicates continuing strong popularity of the recreational activity.

Existing Inventory of Greater Clark Parks District (GCPD) Skate Spots:

- Endeavour Park, Vancouver
- Gretchen Fraser Park, Vancouver
- Harmony Ridge Parks, Clark County - GCPD
- Little Prairie Park, Clark County – GCPD
- Oak Grove Park, Clark County – GCPD
- Tenny Creek Park, Clark County - GCPD

Off-Leash Areas (Dog Parks)

Formal designated off-leash areas are provided by the county at Pacific, Hockinson Meadows and Brush Prairie Parks. Additionally, Washougal and Bonneville Power (Ross station) in Vancouver have improved dog parks for public use. Some of these facilities are operated in partnership with DOGPAW, a non-profit volunteer-based organization that provides the basic services for continuing care and management. The county manages the landscape while DOGPAW provides specialized dog-related maintenance such as dog waste dispensers, trash receptacles, signage and some clean-up. The existing OLA in Washougal is planned for a new land-use development and will be eliminated unless another suitable site can be found.

While no adopted standard has been established for provision of dog parks or geographic distribution of OLAs within the urban area, the Board of County Commissioners did approve the planning approach for providing off-leash areas for dogs within the Vancouver urban area. The November 10, 2004 Board work session endorsed an approach for providing multiple, appropriately-sized sites (2-4 acres in size) through negotiations led by the parks and recreation department with OLA user groups (such as DOGPAW) partnering for the development, operation and maintenance of the OLAs. The planning approach aimed to target non-park lands to the extent possible by relying on BPA, CPU, and other public lands as appropriate.

County code mandates the use of leashes at all times except within designated off-leash areas. Informal off-leash dog uses have become a common occurrence within the county-owned properties of undeveloped GCPD neighborhood and community park land and in the natural areas along the Salmon Creek Greenway and within regional parks. These unauthorized off-leash activities suggest the need for additional geographically-distributed OLAs within the Vancouver urban area.

Disc Golf

Opportunities for playing disc golf have been initiated since the last parks plan in 2007. Vancouver Parks added a disc golf course to Leverich Park through a partnership with Stumptown Disc Golf. Paradise Point State Park added a few disc golf holes near their shore launch area along the East Fork of the Lewis River. The master plan for Lower Daybreak Park (an extension of the existing Daybreak Regional Park) includes the accommodation of an 18-hole disc golf course, in partnership with a local disc golf club. Plans are underway for adding a disc golf course at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park.

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Indoor Sports Field/Court Facilities

Several indoor facilities provide opportunities for year-round recreation (outside of community recreation centers, school gyms and pools). These facilities can help supplement the outdoor recreation needs for sports organizations during the winter months when weather may limit or prohibit outdoor field use.

Table 6. Indoor facilities (not including community recreation centers)

Facility Name	Type of Amenity	Ownership
Vancouver Tennis Center	9 Indoor tennis courts 4 outdoor tennis courts 3 racquetball courts	Vancouver
Clark County Indoor Sports Center	Indoor field (1)	Private
Salmon Creek Indoor Sports Center	Indoor fields (2)	Private

Boat Ramp and Shore Launch Facilities

A variety of providers offer access to rivers and lakes within Clark County. The inventory Table 7 (below) represents the public facilities available for boaters and paddlers. Additional shore launch opportunities can be accessed by carrying kayaks, canoes or paddleboards from parking lots to sandy shores in regional parks such as Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar.

Table 7. Public Launch Sites for Water Craft.

Public Boat Launch Facilities				
Site	Ownership	Improved ramp	Shore launch	Comments
Battle Ground Lake SP	SP	X		
Columbia River Renaissance Trail	NPS		X	Open to foot traffic only
Daybreak Park	County	X		
Francis Moorage	Camas	X		Heritage Park
Lacamas Park	County		X	Car-top launch
Landerholm Boat Launch	WDFW	X		
Lewisville Park	County		X	
Marine Park	Vancouver	X		
Paradise Point State Park	SP		X	
Parker's Landing	Washougal	X		Marina Park
Sandy Swimming Hole	Washougal	X		
South Vancouver Lake	WDFW	X		
Steamboat Landing Park	Washougal	X		
Washougal River Greenway	Washougal	X		Hathaway Park